

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 have been amended and claims 1, 2 and 9-22 have been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claims 1 and 2, and claims 4, 6 and 7 have been amended to now depend on independent claim 3. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated July 28, 2008.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in items 5 and 6 of the Action that claim 8 is allowable and that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2. As noted above, claim 3 has been amended into independent form to include the features of claims 1 and 2. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 and its dependent claims 4-7 are now allowable. Moreover, it is submitted that all of the remaining pending claims 3-8, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No.: 10/713,158
Art Unit: 2614

Response under 37 CFR §1.116
Attorney Docket No.: 031730

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', is positioned above the printed name of the attorney.

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TEB/nrp